

# Medicaid Autism Waiver Pilot

## Waiver Services

- Intensive Individual Support – Consultation Services
- Intensive Individual Support – Direct Services
- Respite
- Financial Management Services
- Case Management (Administrative Function)

## Purpose

This waiver is designed as a two-year pilot to provide services statewide to children who have an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis. Data has shown that early intervention with intensive individual support services such as Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) have the ability to improve outcomes for children.

## Limitations

- A limited number of individuals are served.
- Children from age 2 through the month of their 6<sup>th</sup> birthday may receive services.
- Individuals can use only those services they are assessed as needing.

## Website Information

<http://health.utah.gov/autismwaiver/>

- On the website, you can join our listserv to receive emails on program updates as well as information on the dates for open enrollment. (Later this fall.)
- The site also contains frequently asked questions and provides the opportunity to give comments and feedback/suggestions.

## Eligibility Requirements

- Be between 2 through 5 years of age.
- Must apply during an open enrollment period. (See back side of fact sheet for additional information.)
- Have an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis. (See back side of fact sheet for additional information.)
- Parents must be willing to provide a minimum of five hours per week of behavioral supports consistent with ABA training.
- Meet waiver financial eligibility requirements for Medicaid. (Waiver programs do not count the income or assets of parents.)

## Contact Information

Department of Health  
PO Box 143112  
SLC, UT 84114  
Josip Ambrenac – Autism Waiver Liaison  
[jambrena@utah.gov](mailto:jambrena@utah.gov) or (801) 538-6090  
Division of Services for People with Disabilities  
195 North 1950 West  
SLC, UT 84116  
(801) 538-4200  
[dspd@utah.gov](mailto:dspd@utah.gov)



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**HEALTH**  
**MEDICAID**

# Open Enrollment & Diagnosis Information

## Utah Has Seven Medicaid 1915(c) HCBS Waivers

- Waiver for Individuals Age 65 or Older
- Acquired Brain Injury Waiver
- Community Supports Waiver for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities or Other Related Conditions
- Physical Disabilities Waiver
- New Choices Waiver
- Waiver for Technology Dependent, Medically Fragile Individuals
- Medicaid Autism Waiver Pilot

### Open Enrollment/Waiver Openings

- In the fall, Medicaid will be accepting applications for a 2 week period.
- If the number of applications exceeds 200, enrollees will be selected through a randomized process.
- Waiver openings will be assigned to geographical areas within the state using population figures from the 2010 census. (ex. If the area contains 10% of the state population, it will receive 10% of the waiver openings.)
- As openings become available (ex. due to children "aging-out" of the program) additional children from the same geographical area(s) will be enrolled.
- Additional open enrollment periods may also be used.

### Diagnosis

- Diagnosis given by a clinician who is authorized within the scope of their licensure.
- The clinician notes need to document the following:
  - Specific limitations in communication and social skills or behaviors such as:*
    - *Poor social/emotional development shown by failing to communicate back and forth, share interests/emotions or begin social interactions.*
    - *Limits in non-verbal communication. May range from poor use of body language with speech; poor eye contact to total lack of facial expression or gestures.*
    - *Difficulty with relationships with people other than family or care-givers. May range from struggles in adjusting behavior for specific situations or imaginative play to not having any interest in other people.*
    - *Repetitive speech, physical movements or use of objects*
    - *Routine patterns of speech or behavior and extreme negative response to having these routines changed. May be physical movements, insisting on having the same foods or repetitive questioning on small changes.*
    - *Unusually strong interest in specific objects or activities.*
    - *Extremely strong or complete lack of reaction to different elements of the environment. (Not showing any reaction to pain/heat/cold, or responding very negatively to certain sounds, textures, smells, etc.) May be very interested with lights or spinning objects or constantly smelling/touching objects.*
  - Signs should be present in early childhood, but full effect may not be known until the child is older and unable to deal with certain situations.*
  - Development issues and behavior limit the ability to take care of daily tasks.*

If your child has been diagnosed with ASD, but the notes from your clinician do not include many of these observations, please contact them to discuss these items.